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## PRESS CLIPPINGS

Office of Program Resources Management

(632) 552-9907

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## INVESTING IN PEOPLE (Education)



**UNCOVERING ASSETS:**  
*Helping OSYs wield their strengths*

administrators from the Bureau of Alternative Learning System. It gained positive reactions from the DepED administrators in Region 9, 12 and ARMM who work closely with EQALLS in the implementation of its Alternative Learning System (ALS) programs.

They tried the survey at youth centers, among them the Social Development Center in Zamboanga City. What came out was a learner-centered profile of the youth conveying mostly the difficult growing up experiences of OSYs.

One of the administrators, Ms. Enus Kiblan, Division ALS Supervisor of Salu 2 in ARMM, was deeply touched when a child respondent sought an explanation of “family” when the word cropped up in the survey.

“The Developmental Assets Profile (DAP) introduced by USAID’s EQALLS project can produce results that indicate an out-of-school youth’s strongest positive assets. These assets will enable him to live a healthy and responsible life.

“I have no difficulty with DAP as a tool. But it can be difficult for this learner who has to answer questions about her family when she herself doesn’t know what a family is. She doesn’t know what a house is because for her the house is the Social Development Center,” she said.

“The DAP tool can also be an instrument to foster a closer relationship among Instructional Managers (IMs) and their learners.” Kiblan said.

IMs are supervisors of ALS classes at EQALLS community learning centers. With information on the learners’ abilities and personal assets, they stand in a much better position to help the learners achieve their goals –

From 2006 to 2011, USAID, through EQALLS2, will reach 100,000 out-of-school children and youth with alternative learning system (ALS) programs, giving them more relevant livelihood skills training and the chance to re-enter the formal education system. EQALLS ALS program is the biggest out-of-school youth program in the country.

Thanks to Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQALLS), an education project from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), kids who have dropped out of school and are now engaged in EQALLS’ basic literacy and livelihood skills trainings will undergo a survey so as to get their profile.

The new profiling tool, Developmental Assets Profile (DAP), survey children with ages 11 to 18 years based on 40 developmental assets, to include personal experiences and qualities that they need to become responsible members of society. Children respond to a 10-item instrument that will reveal how much of these assets they possess.

Earlier this month, DAP was introduced to EQALLS implementing partners and Department of Education (DepED)

Within its project life, the EQALLS Project, now on its second phase, will develop the capacity of 24,000 elementary teachers in teaching English, science and math, with 9,000 of them trained in the English proficiency program. School officials and administrators will likewise be trained in school finance, management and governance.

By equipping them with life skills, out-of-school children and youth are better able to integrate with formal school or industry environments, and are made aware of their potential role in society. Programs are introduced to help them cope with conflict or post-conflict situations, thus making them emotionally and spiritually prepared to track a new path in life.

EQALLS2 makes use of education technology to enrich lessons in English, science and math. Technology-based education provides students with a stimulating and interactive mode of learning as it facilitates teachers’ lesson planning.

*(Document Features is the feature section of Zamboanga Today. Contributors and reactions may be sent to [zamboanday.editor@gmail.com](mailto:zamboanday.editor@gmail.com).)*